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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SCHICHTER, ANDREW M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/20/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/082,984

Applicant(s)

KONISHI ET AL.

Examiner

ANDREW SCHECHTER

Art Unit

2871

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 7-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 7-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 22 October 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 22 October 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The applicant argues [pp. 4-5] that the technical problems of *Song* and *Takizawa* are different and the combination would render each reference unsatisfactory for their intended purposes. This is not persuasive. The modification of *Song* envisioned by the rejection is merely the use of various conventional details of LCDs about which *Song* is silent. Having these features in the device of *Song* would tend to be expected by those of ordinary skill in the art, rather than tend to render the device unsatisfactory in some unspecified way. The previous rejections are therefore repeated below, modified as necessary by the amendments to the claims.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1 recites "a first metallic line and a second metallic line arranged beneath the terminal electrode, and connected to the terminal electrode via a contact hole". As can be seen in the applicant's Figs. 2 and 3, for instance, the two metallic lines are separately connected to the terminal electrode via (at least) two respective contact holes, so the claim language should be "via a plurality of contact holes" or similarly match the tenses by singling out the first or second metallic line to be connected via a (single) contact hole. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Song et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,851,918 in view of *Takizawa et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,742,074 and further in view of *Lee et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,587,160.

Song discloses [see Fig. 12, for instance] a TFT array substrate [22, etc.], comprising a display area ["C"] including a pixel electrode [40 in the "C" region], a switching element [24, 30, 34, etc.] connected to the pixel electrode, and a terminal

(region) ["D"] formed outside the display area, wherein the terminal comprises a terminal electrode [40 in the "D" region], and a first metallic line [34c, made of chromium, col. 5, lines 43-44] and a second metallic line [24a, made of aluminum, col. 5, lines 18-19], arranged beneath the terminal electrode, and connected to the terminal electrode via a plurality of contact holes [the holes in passivation layer 36, see objection above], wherein the first metallic line is formed in a side of the display area, wherein the TFT array further comprises an insulating layer [28] which is interposed between the first metallic line and the second metallic line [note that, as shown in the applicant's own Figs. 2 and 3, the first and second metallic lines do not need to overlap each other in order for the insulating layer to be "interposed between" them]; wherein the first metallic line is formed over the insulating layer; wherein the second metallic line is formed beneath the insulating layer; and wherein any one of the first metallic line and the second metallic line [in this case the first metallic line 34c] is formed in the same layer of the source line [the layer of 34a and 34b], and the other one of the two metallic lines [in this case the second metallic line 24a] is formed in the same layer of the gate line [the layer of 24].

Song is silent on, and therefore does not explicitly disclose, the following conventional details of TFT arrays for LCDs: a gate line connected to the switching element and a source line connected to the switching element; and the terminal being for connecting the gate line and source line to wirings from an external signal source, with the terminal electrode connected to wirings from the external signal source.

Takizawa discloses an analogous LCD, with analogous display and terminal areas [see

Fig. 1 or 24, for instance], and explicitly discloses a gate line [14] connected to the analogous switching element [40] and a source line [16] connected to the switching element [see Fig. 3, for instance]; and the terminal being for connecting the gate line and source line to at least one external signal source, with the terminal electrode connected to wirings from the external signal source [see col. 7, lines 25-30, for instance]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have these conventional features in the device of *Song*, motivated by the desire to form a functioning LCD with an active matrix of gate and data lines to produce an image from an array of pixels, and to provide the external signals which direct what image is to be formed, respectively.

Song discloses that the first metallic line is formed in a side of the display area, but does not appear to explicitly disclose that the second metallic line is formed in a side where the TFT array substrate is cut off or chamfered off. However, *Lee* discloses [see Figs. 3 and 14, for instance] an analogous device to that of *Song* [compare Fig. 14 to Fig. 12 of *Song*, for instance], in which there is explicitly shown a shorting bar [102] and a cutting line [11] on the other side of the terminals from the display area. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to cut off the substrate during fabrication of *Song*'s device as shown in *Lee*, motivated by the desire to have a shorting bar to prevent electrostatic charge damage during the fabrication, and the desire to remove the shorting bar so that the signal lines are not shorted to each other during use, as well as getting rid of excess unused peripheral areas to make the display more compact.

Claim 1 is therefore unpatentable.

Considering claim 7, *Song* does not explicitly disclose that the first metallic line is connected to the source line. However, the purpose of these terminal structures is to be connected to such lines, as can be seen in the analogous LCD shown in Figs. 24-32 of *Takizawa* [this is the fourth embodiment, which discloses, like *Song*, electrodes connected via respective contact holes to two lines below them, see Fig. 28D in particular]. Considering the source lines and source terminals in Figs. 28D and 32, for instance, the electrodes [35] are analogous to the terminal electrodes [40] in *Song*, being connected through one contact hole to a lower electrode [34b, like the second metallic line in *Song*] and through another contact hole to a slightly higher electrode [36b, like the first metallic line in *Song*], which is connected to the source line [16b]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the first metallic line in *Song* connected to the source line, motivated by the desire to use the terminal structure in *Song* to provide for electrical connection to the source lines. Claim 7 is therefore unpatentable.

Considering claim 8, *Song* does not explicitly disclose that the second metallic line is connected to the gate line. However, the purpose of these terminal structures is to be connected to such lines, as can be seen in the analogous LCD shown in Figs. 24-32 of *Takizawa* [this is the fourth embodiment, which discloses, like *Song*, electrodes connected via respective contact holes to two lines below them, see Fig. 28D in particular]. Considering the gate lines and gate terminals in Figs. 28D and 32, for instance, the electrodes [25] are analogous to the terminal electrodes [40] in *Song*, being connected through one contact hole to a lower electrode [24a, like the first

metallic line in *Song*] and through another contact hole to an even lower electrode [26a, like the second metallic line in *Song*], which is connected to the gate line [14a].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the first metallic line in *Song* connected to the gate line, motivated by the desire to use the terminal structure in *Song* to provide for electrical connection to the gate lines. Claim 8 is therefore unpatentable.

Note that in claim 7 the recited terminal electrode is connected to a source line, and in claim 8 the recited terminal electrode is connected to a gate line. The rejection above should therefore be understood to refer to two separate terminal electrodes in the device of *Song* in view of *Takizawa*, one on the source side of the display for claim 7, and one on the gate side of the display for claim 8, rather than a single terminal electrode satisfying both claims.

The device is a display device, so claims 9-11 are also unpatentable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Schechter whose telephone number is (571) 272-2302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew Schechter/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2871
Technology Center 2800
18 November 2008